Agreement with Bangladesh

*399. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI LALIT SURI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Bangladesh both have agreed to work closely on security, trade and river water sharing;

(b) if so, what were the main agreements reached during the recent talks;

(c) the steps being taken to implement these agreements; and

(d) whether there has been any improvement between the two countries on these issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. During the visit of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh to India (March 20-22, 2006), both sides held comprehensive discussions on the entire gamut of bilateral relations. The two leaders reaffimed their commitment to work together closely to find mutually satisfactory solutions to all outstanding issues including those related to security, trade and river water sharing.

It was agreed that meetings of bilateral institutional mechanisms dealing with various issues would be held more frequently to ensure positive movement and their outcome monitored by the political leadership. Two agreements were signed during the visit. These were the Revised Trade Agreement and the Agreement for Mutual Cooperation for Preventing Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Related Matters.

Mine expansion programme of NLC

*400 SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister, while inaugurating the Golden Jubliee Celebrations of Neyveli Lignite Corporation, announced the Corporation's Rs. 4,200 crore mine expansion programme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?